



Monticello Animal Hospital
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BUDGIES (PARAKEETS) CARE SHEET

General Information:

Budgies or “parakeets” are small colorful birds found in the desert interiors of Australia. Normal free-ranging budgies are green. Other colors have resulted in selective breeding which have resulted in undesirable characteristics such as increase in weight and unusual feathering that can interfere with normal body functions. Green birds are the most disease-resistant and have the longest life expectancy in captivity. Budgies have a body length of 7 in and weigh 30 g. The average life span is 10-20 years. Budgies are quiet, intelligent, non-destructive most popular companion bird. They are capable of developing a vocabulary of up to 200-300 words and are also good at whistling. Budgies are easy to tame if obtained when they are young so that they adapt readily to new surroundings and handling.

Diet:

Pellets should make up 60-70 percent of a budgies diet the rest consisting of fresh vegetables, fruits, and fortified seeds. Vegetables and fruits not eaten should be discarded within a few hours. Provide fresh water placed at the opposite end of the food container. Food and water should be changed twice daily.

Housing:

It is best to provide the largest habitat possible at least 18” W x 18” D x 18” H with metal bars no greater than ½” apart. Place the habitat off the floor in a well-lit area away from drafts. Budgies acclimate well to average household temperatures that should not exceed 80 degrees F. Avoid placing perches directly over food and water dishes. Habitats should be cleaned at least twice daily with a natural cleaning product. Budgies can be housed alone to bond with the pet parent or in pairs to bond with each other.

Health:

Budgies should be provided with chlorine-free, lukewarm water regularly for bathing or can be misted as an alternative. Nails should be trimmed to avoid injury to the bird. Clipping flight feathers is not required but can help prevent injury or escape. Having your budgie examined regularly by a veterinarian will help prevent many diseases. Signs of a healthy budgie include clear bright eyes, dry open nares, body free of lumps and bumps, smooth bright feathers, even reptilian pattern on feet, and an alert erect posture. Budgies should be seen by a vet for beak swelling, fluffed plucked or soiled feathers, sitting on the floor of the habitat, wheezing or coughing, runny or discolored stools, favoring one foot, eye or nasal discharge, red or swollen eyes, and loss of appetite.